

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 4 and cancel claims 1-3 and 6-14 without prejudice or admission as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. - 3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) ~~A thermal printer according to claim 1; wherein~~ A thermal printer in which printing is performed while paper is sandwiched between a thermal head having a heating element and a platen roller, comprising:

a first frame that movably holds a head support body on which is mounted the thermal head;

biasing means disposed between the head support body and the first frame for applying a pressing force between the thermal head and the platen roller; and

a second frame that holds the first frame and the platen roller;

wherein the thermal head, the head support body, and the biasing means are detachably attachable to the second frame in the state of being assembled with the first frame;

bearing holes through which a shaft is passed are provided in both side walls of each of the head support body and the first frame;

the second frame is provided with a bearing hole, through which the support shaft is passed, in one side wall thereof, and a bearing groove that bears the support shaft in the other side wall thereof;

the support shaft is passed through the bearing holes of the first frame and second frame and the bearing holes of the head support body and is borne in the bearing groove of the second frame, whereby the head support body is held by the first frame in a rotatable state about the support shaft, and also, the first frame is held by the second frame in a rotatable state about the support shaft;

the support shaft is fastened with a fitting that retains the support shaft to prevent it from falling out from the head support body and the first frame in a state in which the support shaft can be slid in an axial direction within a limited movable range;

the thermal printer is provided with fixing means which is brought into contact with the support shaft in a state in which the support shaft is passed through the bearing hole of the second frame to limit sliding of the support shaft in the movable range and which retains the support shaft to prevent it from coming off from the ~~bering~~ bearing groove of the second frame; and

the retainment of the fixing means is released to permit the support shaft to slide in the movable range,

whereby the support shaft is made to ~~all~~ fall out from the bearing hole of the second frame while the support shaft is passed through the first frame and the head support body to make the first frame removable from the second frame.

5. (previously presented) A thermal printer according to claim 4; wherein the fixing means is comprised of a fixture that enables retainment and release of the support shaft through one operation or attachment and detachment of a screw.

6. - 14. (canceled).